

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION PASSING INSTRUCTIONS
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TAGS: PFOR,EAIR, ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISSAIR PRESIDENT BALTENSWEILER ADDRESSES
INTERNATIONAL AVIATION CLUB IN WASHINGTON

LONDON PLEASE PASS TO MR. WALDMANN

1. ON JANUARY 21, ARMIN BALTENSWEILER, PRESIDENT OF SWISS-
AIR ADDRESSED THE INTERNATIONAL AVIATION CLUB AT THE
INTERNATIONAL CLUB IN WASHINGTON. THE TITLE OF BALTENSWEI-
LER'S SPEECH (FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEE POSTS),
"THE FLIGHT FROM THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE," REFLECTED HIS
MAIN THEME. RECOUNTING THE HISTORY OF SWISSAIR'S
DEDICATION TO FREE-ENTERPRISE COMPETITION, BALTENSWEILER
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DEPLORED RECENT PRESSURES TO LIMIT THE TRANSATLANTIC

CAPACITIES OF EUROPEAN CARRIERS LIKE SWISSAIR. COMMENTING THAT SUCH MOVES WOULD ONCE HAVE BEEN BRANDED AS "RANK HERESY" TO THE SPIRIT OF POSTWAR INTERNATIONAL AIR AGREEMENTS, BALTENSWEILER LAMENTED THE ADVERSE EFFECT ON "HEALTHFUL COMPETITION" AND THE PASSENGERS' "FREEDOM OF CHOICE." REFERRING TO THE RECENT TWA-SWISSAIR TALKS TO EFFECT "SOME SAVINGS" IN THE FUEL SITUATION, BALTENSWEILER NOTED RUEFULY THAT "IT TRANSPIRES THAT SWISSAIR IS THE CARRIER ELECTED TO EFFECT ALL THE SAVINGS." BALTENSWEILER CONCLUDED WITH A WARNING AGAINST A "FLY AMERICAN" PROGRAM WHICH COULD LEAD TO RETALIATION AND COUNTER-RETALIATION. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT SINCE 1958 SWISSAIR

HAS SPENT \$290 MILLION MORE IN THE U.S. THAN IT HAS EARNED HERE, \$207 MILLION OF WHICH WAS SPENT OR COMMITTED BETWEEN 1972 AND 1975 (PRIMARILY FOR US AIRCRAFT).

2. FOLLOWING BALTENSWEILER'S TALKS, CLAUDE H. CHRISTE, SWISSAIR'S GENERAL MANAGER FOR NORTH AMERICA, GRIMLY TOLD A DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT HIS FIRM WAS DETERMINED TO REGAIN THEIR DAILY SERVICE TO CHICAGO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SWISSAIR REGARDS THAT PARTICULAR CUTBACK AS THE MOST PAINFUL OF THE REDUCTIONS THEY RECENTLY HAD TO ACCEPT. KISSINGER

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